(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard during last three years; and

(c) what are the details of additional domestic and International Flights proposed to be introduced by Air India during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Air India has plans to acquire new aircraft both in the long range and short range category in order to phase out the older aircrafts, rationalise its fleet and expand capacity. The proposal is yet to be received in the Ministry for Government approval.

To meet short-term capacity requirements, Air India has increased its capacity through dry leasing of 9 A310 and one B747. Air India has commenced operations to New Jersey and Frankfurt from December, 2002 in a phased manner.

(c) Air India has introduced numerous Hub and spoke flights with its own aircraft as well as Indian Airlines aircraft which offers seamless connections to/from the Gulf, Europe and the USA. Air India has restructured its summer schedule with effect from April 2003 and has increased flights to the Gulf with standardised departure timings.

Renovation of Airports in Bihar

†644. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration for renovation and expansion of airports in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether any amount has been spent on the same so far; if so, the amount so spent and present status of each work; and

(c) the steps taken so far for setting up new airports in the country and State-wise details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) In the State of Bihar, Airports Authority of Indian (AAI) has already renovated and expanded Patna airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crore, and Gaya Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crore. Construction of new Terminal Building, Technical block, Fire station etc. is in progress at Gaya Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crore.

(c) Government has already approved in principle, setting up of international airports at Devanahalli near Bangalore, Shamsabad near Hyderabad and Mopa (Goa). Concerned State Governments will implement the projects with majority private sector participation. Substantial progress have been made in setting up of airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad. The private sector partners have been selected through global bids and Special Purpose Companies have been formed for implementation of these projects. The shareholders agreement has already been signed in the case of Bangalore International Airport Limited. Proposals have also been received from State Governments for construction of new airports at Kannur in Kerala, Taj International Aviation Hub in Uttar Pradesh, Ajmer in Rajasthan and Pune (Chakan) and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra.

Performance of Alliance Air

†645. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the objective behind setting up of a separate airways called Alliance Airlines;

(b) whether these objectives have been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether number of plane crashes of Alliance Airlines have increased recently;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of remedial steps taken for safety of passengers and planes; and

(f) by when any review of the airlines is likely to be done?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.